

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1 1. A torque transmission system for transmitting torque between a
2 prime mover and a gearbox in a vehicle, said system comprising:
3 an input shaft which can rotate about a first axis of rotation;
4 at least one output shaft which can rotate about a second axis of rotation
5 which is transversely offset from the first axis of rotation;
6 a first clutch arrangement comprising an output area, which is fixed to said
7 output shaft for rotation in common, and an input area, which can be connected as
8 desired to said output area for transmission of torque; and
9 a drive arrangement connecting said input shaft to said input area of said
10 clutch.

1 2. A torque transmission system as in claim 1 wherein said drive
2 arrangement comprises
3 a first drive wheel, which is connected to said input shaft for rotation in
4 common;
5 a second drive wheel, which is connected to said input area of the first
6 clutch arrangement for rotation in common; and
7 means connecting said first and second drive wheels so that the first drive
8 wheel can cause the second drive wheel to rotate.

1 3. A torque transmission system as in claim 2 wherein said means
2 connecting said first and second drive wheels comprises an endless belt.

1 4. A torque transmission system as in claim 2 further comprising an
2 electric machine, said electric machine comprising:

3 a rotor arrangement connected to the first drive wheel for rotation in
4 common; and

5 a stator arrangement supported on a stationary assembly.

1 5. A torque transmission system as in claim 4 further comprising a
2 second clutch arrangement which can connect the first drive wheel to the input shaft for
3 rotation in common as desired.

1 6. A torque transmission system as in claim 4 wherein the electric
2 machine is essentially coaxial to the first axis of rotation essentially and is located
3 essentially laterally next to the first clutch arrangement.

1 7. A torque transmission system as in claim 2 wherein, relative to the
2 second axis of rotation, the input area of the first clutch arrangement is supported
3 symmetrically with respect to the second drive wheel.

1 8. A torque transmission system as in claim 7 wherein the input area
2 is supported in the axial area of the second drive wheel.

1 9. A torque transmission system as in claim 1 further comprising an
2 actuating system for said first clutch arrangement, said actuating system being arranged
3 on said second axis of rotation after said output shaft.

1 10. A torque transmission system as in claim 1 further comprising an
2 actuating system for said first clutch arrangement, said actuating system being arranged
3 coaxially with said second axis of rotation around said output shaft.

1 11. A drive system for a vehicle, said drive system comprising:
2 a prime mover having a drive shaft which can rotate about a first axis of
3 rotation; and
4 a gearbox having a gearbox input shaft which can rotate about a second
5 axis of rotation which is transversely offset from the first axis of rotation.

1 12. A drive system as in claim 11 wherein the gearbox is located
2 laterally adjacent to the prime mover.

1 13. A drive system as in claim 11 further comprising a torque
2 transmission system for transmitting torque from said drive shaft to said input shaft, said
3 torque transmission system comprising:
4 a first clutch arrangement comprising an output area, which is fixed to said
5 input shaft of said gearbox for rotation in common, and an input area, which can be
6 connected as desired to said output area for transmission of torque; and

7 a drive arrangement connecting said drive shaft to said input area of said
8 clutch.